

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05062

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, FR, UR, GW, US, UK
SUBJECT: PRESS LEAK OF WORMSER-ABRASIMOV DISCUSSION

REFS: (A) USBER 771; (B) BONN 4513; (C) USBER 735

1. IN MARCH 22 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRENCH REP (DE BOISSIEU) RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE MARCH 17 BERLINER MORGENPOST STORY ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV.

2. APPARENTLY SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, DE BOISSIEU SAID THAT IN THE FRENCH VIEW, THE MORGENPOST ACCOUNT WAS INCORRECT AND CONCERNED INFORMATION WHICH BELONGED TO AMBASSADOR WORMSER ALONE. IN ANY CASE ANY LEAK OF THIS KIND IS INADMISSABLE. DE BOISSIEU WENT ON TO ADD THAT SUCH LEAKS ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AS THEY SHOW THE RUSSIANS THAT WE ARE UNRELIABLE AND CANNOT KEEP SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. IN ADDITION, SUCH LEAKS WOULD LEAD TO THE EROSION OF THE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEONS, A TYPE OF MEETING TO WHICH THE FRENCH ATTACH IMPORTANCE. DE BOISSIEU CONCLUDED THAT, IN THE FUTURE, THE FRENCH WOULD NOT REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS.

3. ALL REPS EXPRESSED REGRET ABOUT SUCH PRESS LEAKS.

FRG REP (HENZE) ADDED THAT, WITHIN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE INFORMATION ON THE DISCUSSION WHICH DE BOISSIEU HAD GIVEN TO THE BONN GROUP ON MARCH 15 HAD NOT BEEN DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE BERLIN REFERAT EVEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS THE FRG WAS INTENDING TO WAIT FOR THE FULL MEMORANDUM OF THE CONVERSATION PROMISED BY THE FRENCH AT THAT TIME. FYI: FRENCH REP HAS GIVEN COPIES OF THE MEMCON TO US AND TO UK. MATERIAL IN IT PARALLELS REVIEW OF NOTES BY DE BOISSIEU REPORTED IN REF B. END FYI. HENZE THEN ASKED IF THE FRG COULD HAVE A COPY OF THE FRENCH MEMCON AS PROMISED ON MARCH 15. DE BOISSIEU REFUSED THE REQUEST. HENZE SAID THAT HE REGRETTED DE BOISSIEU'S REFUSAL. SUCH ACTION MAKES COORDINATION AMONG US MORE DIFFICULT.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS, OF COURSE, NOT THE FIRST INSTANCE OF FRENCH PIQUE OVER PRESS LEAKS. MOST RECENTLY, DE BOISSIEU READ THE RIOT ACT IN THE BONN GROUP OVER PRESS LEAKS PRECEDING THE JANUARY 11 ALLIED PROTEST WHICH SAID THAT ONE OF THREE DID NOT WISH TO PROTEST AT ALL. (FAZ, JANUARY 7, 1977) IN ANY CASE, IT SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON US AS DE BOISSIEU SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US BY PHONE THAT HIS REMARKS OF COURSE DID NOT REFER TO THE ALLIES AND THAT THE NORMAL TRIPARTITE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE. AS FOR THE FRG, WE SUSPECT THEY WILL HAVE TO RIDE OUT THIS LATEST FRENCH SQUALL.

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POWER OCCUPATION, STATUS OF BERLIN, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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